

## Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15

STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /092 W

----- 042343

R 310737Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2624

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT BAGHDAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, BMEP, PBOR, KU

SUBJECT: KUWAIT INTEREST IN EXPLOITING OFFSHORE GAS FIELDS

1. SOURCE EXTREMELY CLOSE NEW MINISTER OF OIL AL-KAZEMI, TOLD EMBOFF KUWAIT CONTEMPLATING MANUFACTURE OF LNG. EMBOFF ASKED IF HE WAS REFERRING TO LPG PROJECT FOR WHICH CONSTRUCTION TENDERS WILL BE ISSUED IN NEXT FEW WEEKS. SOURCE REPLIED NO, HE WAS INSTEAD REFERRING TO LARGE OFFSHORE GAS FIELDS LYING OFF KUWAIT AND PARTITIONED ZONE. HE SAID KUWAIT HAD ALREADY BEEN APPROACHED BY JAPANESE, EUROPEANS AND "EVEN U.S. FIRMS" ABOUT SUCH A PROJECT. HE SAID HE BELIEVED KUWAIT WOULD PERMIT EXPLOITATION OF THESE FIELDS AS SOON AS KUWAIT COULD REACH AGREEMENT WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAQ OVER OFFSHORE BOUNDARIES. WHEN EMBOFF EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM THAT IRAQ WOULD BE IN ANY

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RUSH TO SETTLE SUCH A MATTER WITH KUWAIT, SOURCE OPINED THAT

SETTLEMENT OF IRAN-IRAQ BORDER DISPUTE WOULD HAVE SANGUINE  
AFFECT ON KUWAIT'S PROBLEMS WITH IRAQ.

2. COMMENT: SOURCE WAS NOT PARTICULARLY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT  
GAS MATTERS PREVIOUSLY AND CAN BE ASSUMED THAT HIS INFORMATION  
CAME DIRECTLY FROM MINISTER, WHO WAS IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH SAUDIS  
OVER OFFSHORE BOUNDARIES WHEN MISSION CUT SHORT BY FAISAL'S  
MURDER. OFFSHORE GAS FIELDS, ONCE VERY SENSITIVE SUBJECT,  
ARE NOW MENTIONED OCCASIONALLY IN THE PRESS AND IN UNOFFICIAL  
REMARKS MADE BY THOSE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT OIL AND GAS AFFAIRS.  
HOWEVER, THIS FIRST WE HEARD ABOUT SERIOUS KUWAIT INTEREST  
IN RAPID EXPLOITATION THOSE FIELDS FOR ESTABLISHMENT LNG  
PROJECT. SOURCE IS MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN MOST ABOUT CHANCES  
FOR SETTLEMENT WITH IRAQ, BUT AGREEMENT WITH SAUDIS WOULD AT  
LEAST ALLOW EXPLOITATION FIELDS IN SOUTH WHERE LARGE GAS DEPOSITS  
BELIEVED TO EXIST.  
STOLTZFUS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GAS FIELDS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975KUWAIT01396  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750110-0955  
**From:** KUWAIT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t1975033/aaaaabsb.tel  
**Line Count:** 78  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 AUG 2003  
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EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KUWAIT INTEREST IN EXPLOITING OFFSHORE GAS FIELDS  
**TAGS:** ENRG, BTIO, PBOR, KU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006